

THE BUSINESS BAROMETER.

An Index to the Condition of Trade Generally.

THE WHOLESALE GROCERY MARKET.

Interior Buyers Are Sending in Good Orders—Refined Sugar One-eighth Lower—Notes of the Trade.

Office of The Post, Houston, Tuesday, January 19.

Business in wholesale groceries has been up to all expectations since the new year opened. Interior buyers are very conservative in taking supplies, but they are furnishing local jobbers with a steady run of orders. The market appears to be in good shape as a rule, and the strong statistical position of many articles gives a strong tone, though quotations show no further advances.

Sugar has been rather dull, and it is quite evident that country merchants are not anxious over accumulating supplies, despite the outlook for higher prices later in the season. Meanwhile the refineries are adding to their stocks and are purchasing raw sugar in decreased quantities, and concession in values has resulted. Refined sugar was also reduced today.

The green coffee trade has had an undulating cause for its dullness in the competition over roasting coffee, which experienced a further decline last week. While green coffee is generally held at fair prices, which are very low, the market is weak and no immediate advance is expected.

The flour market is dull, and owing to the decline in wheat, several Northwestern mills have cut prices 10 cents per barrel. Choice grades of soft wheat are very scarce, however, and millers who make a specialty of this class of flour are holding quotations in the old basis. A shortage in the world's rice crop of six million tons, has prevented any decline in that product, though the demand has been unsatisfactory this month.

Hide Market Improved.

The market for hides has been rather uncertain for the past week or so, but now appears to be on a firm basis again. Local receivers report rather light offerings, with a good demand.

The Chicago Shoe and Leather Review in its issue of January 19, says: "The dealers are refusing to sell skins and are seemingly greatly interested in the early hide sales." The upper leather trade is reported to be making more progress for hides and the general condition of business does not justify a room in raw materials of any kind.

Flour, at 100 pounds, are scarce. There are few offers after the immediate delivery and the dealers are holding out for a better price. The market prices are firm. No fall in the market is to be expected, with no indication of a return to the old basis. The market has strengthened. The buyers are not disposed to make orders for large amounts unless at higher prices than are offered today.

Business Features.

In the United States the total number of flocks for the year was 4,750,000, and Canada 30,000, according to the preceding weeks and 42,000 corresponding week last year, of which 29,000 were in the United States and 11,000 Canada. In the following table, from Dr. G. H. Lewis, given is the total number of flocks reported from each section of the United States, has been added the flock in Canada, and for the corresponding week last year.

Jan. 16, 1896. Jan. 16, 1897.

East. 301 301

South. 129 129

West. 124 124

Pacific. 24 24

United States. 42 42

Canada. 71 71

Sharp Decline in Sugar.

A decline of 10 cents per pound in refined sugar was witnessed in the market, and local trade buyers, especially as it has been reported recently, that importers are continuing to take out of stores 100,000 bushels of sugar per day, and the market is now in a position to reflect this price. The general demand has been rather flat for the month, and so much so that the sellers have had to sell at a loss. This is due to the fact that prices have been accumulated on refiners' books. The weekly summaries of the principal publications shows total stocks of sugar in Europe and America, about 17,000,000 tons, come last week, and 20,000,000 tons last year at the same time. The excess of sugar is now 6,000,000 tons, against 10,000,000 tons last week, and a difference of 3,000 tons December 31, 1896.

Rungs Are Higher.

Fence posts and rails, with large sales reported at 100 per cent. An advance is expected on several fence posts, and 100 cents early in the day, but the small supply on the market will cause a desire to reduce off offers after 100 per cent. At the present time, the market indicates every commodity has had a decline, and the market is now in good condition for a further advance. The can and 2000-ton wagons, with a slight decrease in the receipts at present, and the light shipments are expected all the time. The market has not a great deal more than they were last Saturday, though 5 cents below the last quotation, are now asking.

Trade Notes.

Hog products are firm, with large sales reported at 100 per cent.

An advance is expected on several fence posts, and 100 cents early in the day, but the small supply on the market will cause a desire to reduce off offers after 100 per cent.

Country was in fair demand today, with receipts light, and sales ready.

Refined trade has been very slow. This month, and the preceding sales are more prevalent than profits.

Lower prices and less business characterize the iron and steel trade. The recent market has followed by more moderate business.

Houston has had six compassions in active work this season, and the last four comprised 200,000 barrels of cotton to date.

The supply of loanable money is becoming requirements at Eastern points, and banks are having good paper. Commercial paper is reported to be 100 per cent.

The live stock market has been in good shape recently, though prices are still very low. Local dealers report cattle in demand. Hogs are in good supply.

HOUSTON PRICE CURRENT.

These quotations are revised daily and

are subject to change.

RECEIVED THIS WEEK.

White Seed Corn,
Millet Seed,
Onion Sets,
Seed Potatoes.

Red Rust Proof Oats for
Planting.

H. D. TAYLOR & SONS.

their correctness can be relied upon. The prices are those ruling in the Houston Wholesale market:

AXLE GREASE—Diamond, \$3.75 per

bottle; in boxes, 1 lb., \$1.50; Golden, 1 lb., \$1.50; dozen boxes, 1 lb., \$1.50;

AMMUNITION—Powder, \$1.25 per kg., \$2.25 per lb.; blasting powder, \$1.50 per kg., agent's

drop shot, per sack, \$1.50; lead, buck, 1 lb., \$1.50;

BACON—Short clear, boxed, \$3.50 per lb.; in

sacks, 1 lb., \$2.50; breakfast, \$3.50; dry salt, \$1.50; ham, salt hams, \$1.50; bacon, salt hams, \$1.50; smoked hams, \$1.50;

BAGGING AND TIRES—Carded lots, 1 lb.,

1 lb., \$1.50; 1 lb., \$1.50; 1 lb., \$1.50; The Arrow

Spots, Delta, in small lots from store,

bagging 10 per yard higher; ties, 10 per

yard, \$1.50; wire, 10 per yard, \$1.50; 10 ft., \$1.50;

BAKING POWDER—Apoex, 1 lb., \$2.00;

1 lb., \$2.00; 1 lb., \$2.00; Victor, 1 lb., per doz.,

1 lb., \$2.00; 1 lb., \$2.00; Ice Spoon, 1 lb., per

doz., \$2.00; 1 lb., \$2.00; K. C. 1 lb., per

doz., \$2.00; 1 lb., \$2.00; Jones, 1 lb., per

doz., \$2.00; Bon Bon, 1 lb., \$2.00; 10 oz., \$2.00;

1 lb., \$2.00; 10 oz., \$2.00;

CANNED FRUIT—Peaches, \$1.50 per

dozen; peaches, standard, \$1.25 per dozen;

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